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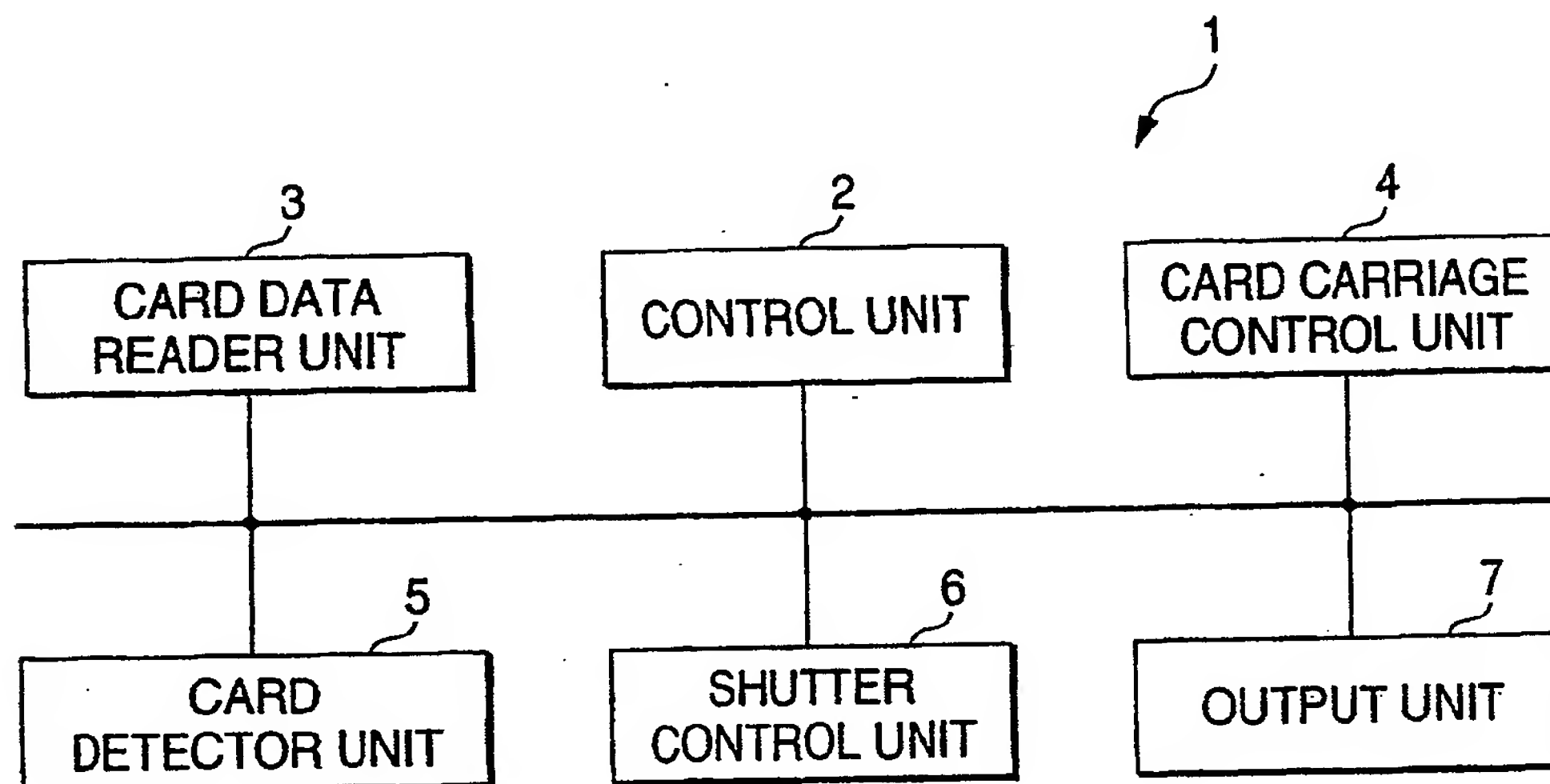
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(54) Card processor

(57) A card processor (1) is disclosed, which maintains security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card and improves operability by suppressing offensive feeling to the customers. A card carriage control unit (4) rotates carrier rollers in a direction in which a card is taken in by the interior of the main body until the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port. Therefore, the customer who inserts the card does not receive offensive

feeling such as supporting something with the card that occurs when the leading end of the card comes in contact with the carrier rollers that are halting. As the card is held by the carrier rollers, further, the card carriage control unit (4) intermittently carries the card so as to be taken in by the main body. Even in case an unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port, therefore, the card data are not read out without authorization.

FIG. 1



Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to a card processor for reading the card data recorded in a card inserted in a main body thereof through an insertion port. More particularly, the invention relates to a card processor having an unauthorized read-preventing function for preventing the unauthorized reading of the card data recorded in the card inserted in the main body.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] Various apparatuses such as an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM), a Cash Dispenser (CD) and the like devices installed in the banks have heretofore been furnished with a card processor for reading the magnetic data (card data) recorded in the card. A magnetic head of the card processor is brought into contact with the magnetic recording surface (magnetic stripe) of the card to read the magnetic data that are recorded therein while the card inserted in the main body through the insertion port is being carried therein.

[0003] However, it could happen that the magnetic data of the card which a customer has inserted in the card processor are read out without authorization in a manner as described below, and it has been urged to take a countermeasure against the unauthorized reading of the magnetic data.

[How to Read the Magnetic Data without Authorization]

[0004] An unauthorized card reader having a magnetic head and a memory is attached to the front surface of the card insertion port of the card processor. The unauthorized card reader is so constituted that a card inserted through the front surface passes through the interior of the main body and is discharged through the back surface. The magnetic data recorded in the card passing through the main body are read by the magnetic head of the unauthorized card reader, and are stored in a memory.

[0005] A customer may insert his card through the card insertion port of the unauthorized card reader without knowing that the unauthorized card reader has been attached to the front surface of the card processor. Then, the card that is inserted passes through the unauthorized card reader and is taken in by the interior of the main body from the card insertion port of the card processor. At this moment, the magnetic data recorded in the customer's card are read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader.

[0006] The card processor, on the other hand, reads the magnetic data recorded in the magnetic card while

carrying the card that is introduced through the insertion port of the main body irrespective of whether the magnetic data of the card have been read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader (irrespective of whether the card has passed through the unauthorized card reader that is attached to the front surface of the main body without authorization). The card processor, then, processes the transaction by using the magnetic data that are read out. Thereafter, the card processor discharges the card that is taken in by the main body. When the unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the main body, the card passes through the unauthorized card reader and is returned back to the customer.

[0007] The unauthorized card reader is capable of reading the magnetic data recorded in the card without authorization when the card is being discharged from the card processor.

[0008] The customer finds that the transactions have been normally processed by using his card, and does not perceive that the magnetic data are read out from his card without authorization.

[0009] A person who has attached the unauthorized card reader removes the unauthorized card reader from the card processor, and forges a card by using the card data stored in the memory.

[0010] In order to cope with the unauthorized reading of the magnetic data, there have so far been proposed a technology (see Svigals J: "Unauthorized Card Stripe Reading Inhibitor", IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, Vol. 126 No. 6, Nov. 1, 1983 (1983-11-1), page 2707, XP002145300, New York) according to which the card is intermittently carried while the card is partly exposed out of the main body such as when the card is being taken in by the main body or is discharged, and a technology (see U. S. Patent No. 6, 460, 771B1) which intermittently carries the card in a random fashion in order to enhance the security.

[0011] In the conventional card processor, however, the carrier rollers for holding and carrying the card are intermittently rotated (rotated and stopped repetitively) when the card is inserted by the customer. Therefore, it often happens that the customer inserts the card when the carrier rollers are halting.

[0012] Usually, the carrier rollers are made of a material having a high frictional force to reliably carry the card. With the carrier rollers being at rest when the card is inserted, therefore, the leading end of the card comes in contact with the carrier rollers that are at rest to temporarily hinder the customer's operation for inserting the card. At this moment, foreign matter in the insertion passage of the card causes offensive feeling to the customer, such as supporting something with the card.

[0013] As the carrier rollers start rotating, further, the card that is inserted is taken in by the main body being supported by the carrier rollers. Therefore, the card is smoothly inserted making a complete change from the feeling of supporting something, which, still, is offensive

feeling for the customer.

[0014] As described above, the conventional card processor is provided with only a countermeasure which is for enhancing the security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card, but no measure has been taken for suppressing the offensive feeling for the customer and, hence, the operability is not favorable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] It is an object of the present invention to provide a card processor which maintains security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card and improves operability by suppressing offensive feeling to the customers.

[0016] In order to solve the above problem, the card processor of the present invention is constituted as described below.

- (1) A card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;
card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on the card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of the carrier rollers; and
card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along the card carrier passage; are provided, and:

the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a forward direction in which the card is carried into the interior of the main body until the card inserted in the card carrier passage through an insertion port is held by a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port;
after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction and stopped repetitively, so that the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body; and
after the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body, the carrier rollers are rotated forward to carry the card up to a storage portion in the main body.

In this constitution, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction (forward direction) in which the card is taken in by the interior of the main body until the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port in the card carrier passage. When the customer inserts the card, therefore, the leading end of the card does not come in contact with the carrier rollers that are halting, and the customer does not feel it offensive such as the card lodging in something.

Further, when the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port in the card

carrier passage, the card carriage controller repeats the rotation and stop of the carrier rollers to intermittently carry the card. Therefore, even if an unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port of the card processor, the card data are not read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader, and security is maintained against the unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card.

Then, as the card is taken in by the main body by a predetermined length, for example, as the card is taken in until a portion of the card is not exposed to the outer side, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in the forward direction to carry the card at nearly a constant speed up to the storage portion in the main body. The card data recorded in the card are read out while it is being carried at a constant speed, suppressing the occurrence of error in reading the card data.

It is therefore allowed to maintain security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card and to improve operability suppressing offensive feeling to the customers.

- (2) A card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on the card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of the carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along the card carrier passage; are provided, and:

the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a forward direction in which the card is carried into the interior of the main body until the card inserted in the card carrier passage through an insertion port is held by a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port;
after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction and in the reverse direction repetitively, so that the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body; and
after the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body, the carrier rollers are rotated forward to carry the card up to a storage portion in the main body.

This constitution is nearly the same as that of (1) above. When the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port in the card carrier passage, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in the forward direction and in the reverse direction repetitively to repetitively carry the card in a direction in which it is taken in by the interior of the main body and in a direction in which it is

discharged out of the main body, so that the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body. For example, the card is taken in until a portion of the card is not exposed to the outer side. While the card is partly exposed to the outer side of the main body, the card is repetitively carried in the direction in which it is taken in by the interior of the main body and in the direction in which it is discharged out of the main body. This further enhances the security against the unauthorized reading of the card data by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port of the card processor.

(3) A card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on the card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of the carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along the card carrier passage; wherein

the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a forward direction in which the card is carried into the interior of the main body until the card inserted in the card carrier passage through an insertion port is held by a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port;

after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body while varying the rotational speed of the carrier rollers; and

after the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body, the carrier rollers are rotated forward to carry the card up to a storage portion in the main body.

This constitution is nearly the same as the above (1). However, when the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port in the card carrier passage, the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body while varying the rotational speed of the carrier rollers. Concretely speaking, the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body while varying the carrying speed of the card. When the magnetic data recorded in the card are to be read out by the magnetic head, an electromotive force generated by the magnetic head decreases with a decrease in the speed of carrying the card. Therefore, if the speed for carrying the card is decreased to some extent, it becomes difficult to read the magnetic data recorded in the card even though the carriage of the card is not completely halted. Therefore, this enhances the security against the unauthorized reading of the card data by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port of the card processor.

(4) Provision is made of a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by the first sensor, the card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction.

In this constitution, the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction when the card is detected by the first sensor that is provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port. Therefore, the carrier rollers are not wastefully and continuously rotated when there is no customer.

(5) Provision is made of a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by the second sensor, the card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers.

In this constitution, it is so judged that the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers arranged closest to the insertion port side when the card is detected by the second sensor provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port.

(6) A first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port; and

a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port; are provided, and:

when the card is detected by the first sensor, the card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction, when the card is detected by the second sensor, the card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers, and when the card is not detected by the first sensor but is detected by the second sensor, the card carriage controller so judges that the card has been taken in by a predetermined length by the main body.

In this constitution, in addition to the constitutions (3) and (4), it is so judged that the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body when the card is not detected by the first sensor but is detected by the second sensor.

(7) A card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the car-

riage of card on the card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of the carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along the card carrier passage; are provided, and:

when the card is being held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion portion at the time when the card is being discharged, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction in which the card is discharged and stops repetitively, so that the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length.

In this constitution, the operation contrary to that of (1) above is executed when the card is discharged to prevent the unauthorized reading of the card data by the unauthorized card reader.

(8) A card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on the card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of the carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along the card carrier passage; are provided, and:

when the card is being held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion portion at the time when the card is being discharged, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction in which the card is discharged and in a direction in which the card is taken in by the main body, repetitively, so that the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length.

In this constitution, the operation contrary to that of (2) above is executed when the card is discharged to prevent the unauthorized reading of the card data by the unauthorized card reader.

(9) When the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length at the time of discharging the card, the card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in the direction in which the card is discharged.

[0017] Therefore, the card can be returned to the customer without giving him offensive feeling.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018]

Fig. 1 shows a block diagram illustrating the constitution of a card processor according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 shows a view schematically illustrating the internal constitution of the card processor according to the embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 shows a view schematically illustrating a state where an unauthorized card reader is attached to the card processor of the embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 shows a flowchart illustrating the take-in operation.

Fig. 5 shows a view illustrating changes in the state at the time of take in.

Fig. 6 shows a flowchart illustrating the discharge operation.

Fig. 7 shows a view illustrating changes in the state at the time of discharge.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0019] A card processor according to an embodiment of the invention will now be described.

[0020] Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the constitution of the card processor according to an embodiment of the invention. The card processor 1 of this embodiment includes a control unit 2 for controlling the operation of the main body, a card data reader unit 3 for reading the card data recorded in the card inserted in the main body, a card carriage control unit 4 for controlling the carriage of the card inserted in the main body, a card detector unit 5 for detecting the presence of the card in the carrier passage, a shutter control unit 6 for controlling the opening/closing of the shutter provided in the insertion port, and an output unit 7 for producing the card data read from the card inserted in the main body.

[0021] Fig. 2 is a view schematically illustrating the internal structure of the card processor according to the embodiment of the invention. The card processor 1 of this embodiment is incorporated in such apparatuses as ATM, CD and the like. In Fig. 2, reference numeral 10 denotes a card, and 11 denotes an insertion port for inserting the card 10. The insertion port 11 is positioned in the front surface of the apparatus to which the card processor 1 is applied. Reference numeral 12 denotes a sensor (corresponds to a first sensor referred to in the invention) for detecting the insertion of the card 10. The sensor 12 is a push sensor which is located at a position where it is pushed by the card 10 that is inserted. Reference numeral 13 denotes a shutter. The open/closed state of the insertion port 11 is controlled by the shutter control unit 6.

[0022] Reference numerals 14 to 17 denote pairs of carrier rollers for holding and carrying the card, which are arranged in a direction in which the card 10 is carried. The carrier rollers 14 are a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, that is referred to in the invention. Among the pairs of carrier rollers 14 to 17, those on one side are drive rollers to which the rotational force of a motor is transmitted, and those on the other side

are driven rollers that rotate following the drive rollers. The carrier rollers 14 to 17 are driven by a single motor. The card carriage control unit 4 controls the rotation of the motor (inclusive of the rotational direction and rotational speed) and the stop thereof. Reference numerals 21 to 24 denote sensors for detecting the presence of the card on the carrier passage. The sensors 21 to 24 are optical sensors comprising light-emitting units and light-receiving units, which are arranged facing each other with the carrier passage interposed therebetween. The sensor 21 corresponds to a second sensor referred to in the invention. The sensor 21 is constituted to detect the card 10 that is held by the carrier rollers 14 closest to the insertion port 11. The sensor 24 is for detecting the card 10 that is inserted in the main body and that has reached the storage portion. Based on the results detected by the sensors 12 and 21 to 24, the card detector unit 5 detects the card 10 that is inserted in the main body and the position of the card 10 on the carrier passage. Reference numeral 18 denotes a magnetic head for reading the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 inserted in the main body. The magnetic head 18 is connected to the card data reader unit 3.

[0023] The length from the insertion port 11 until the sensor 21 is about one-third (about 30 mm) of the length (about 86 mm) of the card 10 in the direction in which it is carried. The length from the sensor 12 to the magnetic head 18 (about 90 mm) is slightly longer than the length of the card 10 in the direction in which it is carried.

[0024] Here, the card 10 is a magnetic card recording the card data (magnetic data) in the magnetic stripe formed on the surface of the card 10. The card 10, however, may be a composite card having an IC chip recording the card data in addition to the magnetic stripe. In this case, the main body of the card processor 1 may be provided with a contact point which can be electrically connected to the IC chip of the card 10 that is carried into the storage portion to read the card data recorded in the IC chip.

[0025] Referring to Fig. 3, an unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11. When the unauthorized card reader is attached, the card is taken in by the main body passing through the unauthorized card reader and the insertion port 11. The unauthorized card reader is provided with a magnetic head and a memory.

[0026] The operation of the card processor according to the embodiment will be described next. First, described below is the operation (take-in operation) for taking in the card by the main body through the insertion port 11. Fig. 4 is a flowchart illustrating the take-in operation.

[0027] When the card 10 inserted in the main body is detected by the sensor 12 (s1) (see Fig. 5(a)), the carrier rollers 14 to 17 in the card processor 1 start rotating in the forward direction (direction in which the card 10 is taken in by the interior of the main body) (s2). At s2, the card carriage control unit 4 controls the rotation of the

motor (not shown) to rotate the carrier rollers 14 to 17 in the forward direction.

[0028] The carrier rollers 14 to 17 in the card processor 1 are halting until the insertion of the card is detected at s1. Further, the shutter 13 is not closing the insertion port 11, and the insertion of card 10 by the customer is not prevented.

[0029] As the card 10 is further pushed into the main body by the customer beyond the state shown in Fig. 5 (a), the leading end of the card 10 enters into between the pair of carrier rollers 14 (carrier rollers closest to the insertion port 11). At this moment, the carrier rollers 14 are rotating forward. Therefore, the card 10 can be smoothly inserted in the main body and no offensive feeling is given to the customer. As the leading end of the card 10 is held by the carrier rollers 14 and is detected by the sensor 21 disposed neighboring the carrier rollers 14 (on the side opposite to the insertion port 11) (s3) (see Fig. 5 (b)), the card 10 is intermittently carried (s4).

[0030] The intermittent carriage starts at a timing when the leading end of the card 10 is detected by the sensor 21. Therefore, the intermittent carriage starts at a timing while the card 10 is being exposed to the outer side by about two-thirds from the insertion port 11.

[0031] The intermittent carriage that starts at s4 will now be described. The intermittent carriage referred to here is the operation for carrying the card 10 (so as to be taken in by the main body) by rotating the carrier rollers 14 to 17 forward for a first period of time (e. g., 20 ms) and, then, discontinuing the operation for a second period of time (e.g., 40 ms), repetitively. The card 10 is taken in by the main body while being repetitively carried and halted. The speed for carrying the card during the first period of time is, for example, 100 mm/s.

[0032] As is well known, in order to read the magnetic data recorded in the magnetic stripe, the magnetic head must be continuously moved relative to the magnetic stripe. If the magnetic head comes into a halt relative to the magnetic stripe while the magnetic data are being read out, it is not allowed to read the magnetic data. Therefore, even if the unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11, the above intermittent carriage starts when the magnetic data recorded in the magnetic stripe of the card 10 are read nearly by half by the unauthorized card reader. Accordingly, the magnetic data recorded in the latter half of the magnetic stripe of the card 10 are not read by the unauthorized card reader.

[0033] In recording the magnetic data, in general, the enciphered data are recorded in the former half portion or in the latter half portion of the magnetic stripe, and a key for decoding is recorded in the other half portion. Therefore, even if the magnetic data recorded in the former half portion of the magnetic stripe are read out, it is not allowed to utilize the magnetic data without authorization.

[0034] The card processor 1 continues the intermit-

tent carriage that starts at s4 until the card 10 is no longer detected by the sensor 12 (s5) (see Fig. 5(c)). When the rear end of the card 10 is located inside the main body beyond the sensor 12, the card 10 is no longer detected by the sensor 12. When the card 10 is no longer detected by the sensor 12 (when the card 10 is completely taken in by the interior of the main body of the card processor 1), the card processor 1 discontinues (s6) the intermittent carriage that has started at s4, and starts the constant-speed carriage to carry the card 10 at a constant speed (s7). When the constant-speed carriage starts at s7, the leading end of the card 10 is not yet arriving at the magnetic head. Due to the constant-speed carriage, the card 10 is carried at a speed of, for example, about 300 mm/s.

[0035] When the constant-speed carriage starts at s7, the card processor 1 closes the shutter 13 (s8) so that another card 10 will not be inserted through the insertion portion 11. After the constant-speed carriage, the magnetic stripe of the card 10 comes in contact with the magnetic head 18 in the card processor 1. In the card processor 1, the magnetic head 18 reads the magnetic data recorded in the magnetic stripe of the card 10 that is carried at a constant speed.

[0036] When the card 10 that has arrived at the storage portion is detected (s9) (see Fig. 5(d)), the card processor 1 discontinues the carriage of the card (carrier rollers are halted) (s10) to end operation for taking in the card (see Fig. 5 (d)). When the leading end of the card 10 is detected by the sensor 24, the card processor 1 so judges that the card 10 has arrived at the storage portion.

[0037] When the card 10 has arrived at the storage portion, the rear end of the card 10 has already passed through the magnetic head 18 as shown in Fig. 5(d), and the card processor 1 can read the magnetic data recorded in the card 10.

[0038] The card processor 1 outputs the magnetic data read from the card 10 taken in by the main body through an output unit 7. The magnetic data are used by the apparatus to which the card processor 1 is adapted. For example, the magnetic data are used for the transaction processing in the ATM or the CD.

[0039] Next, described below is the operation for discharging the card 10 to return back to the customer the card 10 that is carried to the storage portion. Fig. 6 is a flowchart illustrating the discharge operation. The card processor 1 carries (starts discharging at a constant speed) the card 10 at the storage portion in the direction of discharge at a constant speed of, for example, 300 mm/s (s11) (see Fig. 7 (a)). At this moment, the carrier rollers 14 to 17 are rotated by the card carriage control unit 4 in a direction (reverse direction) in which the card 10 is discharged. When the card 10 is detected by the sensor 21 (s12), the card processor 1 opens the shutter 13 (s13) (see Fig. 7(b)). At this moment, the constant-speed carriage of the card 10 is continuing in the direction in which the card 10 is discharged. When the sensor

12 detects the card 10 (when the leading end of the card 10 arrives at the sensor 12) (s14) (see Fig. 7(c)), the card processor 1 starts the intermittent discharge (s15).

[0040] The intermittent discharge at s15 is the operation for discharging the card 10 by rotating the carrier rollers 14 to 17 in the reverse direction for a third period of time (e.g., 20ms) and, then, discontinuing the operation for a fourth period of time (e.g., 40 ms), repetitively. The card 10 is discharged from the main body while being repetitively carried and halted. The speed for carrying the card during the third period of time is, for example, 100 mm/s. At the start of the intermittent discharge, the whole card 10 is located in the main body (no portion is exposed to the outer side).

[0041] As the intermittent discharge starts at s15, the card processor 1 continues the intermittent discharge until the card is no longer detected by the sensor 21 (s16). When the card is no longer detected by the sensor 21 (when the card 10 is positioned on the side of the insertion port 11 beyond the sensor 21) (see Fig. 7(d)), the card 10 has been discharged through the insertion port 11 by about two-thirds. Accordingly, even if the unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11, the unauthorized card reader cannot read the magnetic data recorded in the magnetic stripe of the card 10 discharged from the main body by the intermittent discharge operation. Besides, the magnetic data recorded in this portion are those data that were not read by the unauthorized card reader through the take-in operation described above.

[0042] When the card 10 is no longer detected by the sensor 21, the card processor 1 rotates the carrier roller 14 in the reverse direction at a constant speed for a predetermined period of time and, then, halts the carrier rollers to end the processing (s17 to s19). Then, the customer pinches the card 10 that is partly discharged from the insertion port 11 and pulls it out from the main body. Here, since the carrier rollers 14 are rotating in the reverse direction, the customer is allowed to take out the card 10 from the main body without offensive feeling.

[0043] In the card processor 1 of this embodiment as described above, the magnetic data are not read without authorization by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11 at the time of inserting the card 10 into the main body and discharging the card from the main body. When the customer is pinching the card 10 that is inserted through the insertion port 11, the carrier rollers 14 are rotating forward and no offensive feeling is given to the customer. Further, when the customer pinches the card 10 discharged from the insertion port 11 to pull it out, the carrier rollers 14 are rotating reverse and the customer does not feel it offensive. Therefore, this makes it possible to maintain security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 and to improve operability for the customer.

[0044] In the operation for taking in the card 10 that is inserted through the insertion port 11 according to the

above embodiment, the card 10 is taken in by the main body by the intermittent carriage while repeating the carriage of the card 10 and stop while the card 10 is being detected by the two sensors 12 and 21 (processing at s4). It is, however, also allowable to take in the card by the main body while repeating the carriage and stop in the direction in which the card 10 is taken in by the main body and repeating the carriage and stop in the direction of discharge. For example, the card 10 may be taken in by the main body by repeating the operation consisting of carrying the card 10 in the direction of being taken in by the main body for 20 ms, halting the carriage for 40 ms, carrying the card 10 in the direction of being discharged from the main body for 5 ms, and halting the carriage for 40 ms. This makes it possible to more reliably prevent the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 from being read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11.

[0045] Similarly, in the operation for discharging the card 10, too, it is allowable to discharge the card 10 from the main body by repeating the carriage and stop in the direction in which the card 10 is discharged from the main body and repeating the carriage and stop in the direction in which it is taken in while the card 10 is being detected by the two sensors 12 and 21. For example, the card 10 may be discharged from the main body by repeating the operation consisting of carrying the card 10 in the direction of discharge from the main body for 20 ms, halting the carriage for 40 ms, carrying the card 10 in the direction of being taken in by the main body for 5 ms, and halting the carriage for 40 ms. This makes it possible to more reliably prevent the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 from being read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11.

[0046] It is further allowable to take in the card 10 by the main body while varying the speed for carrying the card 10 instead of completely halting the carriage of the card 10 while the two sensors 12 and 21 are detecting the card 10. When the magnetic data recorded in the card are to be read by the magnetic head 18, an electromotive force generated by the magnetic head 18 decreases with a decrease in the speed of carrying the card 10. Therefore, if the speed for carrying the card 10 is decreased to some extent, it becomes difficult to read the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 though the carriage of the card 10 is not completely halted. Therefore, this prevents the magnetic data recorded in the card 10 that is taken in from being read out without authorization by the unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port 11. Besides, since the carriage of the card 10 is not completely halted, it is allowed to shorten the time in which the two sensors 12 and 21 are detecting the card 10 and, as a result, the processing time can be shortened.

[0047] According to the present invention as described above, the card data recorded in the card are

prevented from being read out without authorization by an unauthorized card reader attached to the front surface of the insertion port and, besides, the operability is improved without giving offensive feeling to the customer at the time of inserting or discharging the card.

Claims

1. A card processor comprising:

a card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on said card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of said carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card which is carried along said card carrier passage; wherein

said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a forward direction in which the card is carried into the interior of the main body until the card inserted in the card carrier passage through an insertion port is held by a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port;

after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction and stopped repetitively, so that the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body; and

after the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body, the carrier rollers are rotated forward to carry the card up to a storage portion in the main body.

2. A card processor according to claim 1, wherein the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction and in the reverse direction, instead the carrier rollers are rotated in the forward direction and stopped.

3. A card processor comprising:

a card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;

card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on said card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of said carrier rollers; and

card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along said card carrier passage; wherein

said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a forward direction in which the card

is carried into the interior of the main body until the card inserted in the card carrier passage through an insertion port is held by a pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port; after the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port, the card is taken in by a predetermined length by the main body while varying the rotational speed of the carrier rollers; and after the card is taken in by the predetermined length by the main body, the carrier rollers are rotated forward to carry the card up to a storage portion in the main body.

4. A card processor according to claim 1, further comprising a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction.
5. A card processor according to claim 2, further comprising a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction.
6. A card processor according to claim 3, further comprising a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction.
7. A card processor according to claim 1, further comprising a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers.
8. A card processor according to claim 2, further comprising a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers.
9. A card processor according to claim 3, further comprising a second sensor for detecting the card, the

second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port, wherein when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers.

10. A card processor according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port; and
 - a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port; wherein
 - when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction, when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers, and when said card is not detected by said first sensor but is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card has been taken in by a predetermined length by the main body.
11. A card processor according to claim 2, further comprising:
 - a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port; and
 - a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port; wherein
 - when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction, when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers, and when said card is not detected by said first sensor but is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card has been taken in by a predetermined length by the main body.
12. A card processor according to claim 3, further comprising:

a first sensor for detecting the card, the first sensor being provided for the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port on the side of the insertion port; and
 a second sensor for detecting the card, the second sensor being provided neighboring the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port but on the side opposite to the insertion port; wherein
 when the card is detected by said first sensor, said card carriage controller starts rotating the carrier rollers in the forward direction, when the card is detected by said second sensor, said card carriage controller so judges that the card is held by said pair of carrier rollers, and when said card is not detected by said first sensor but is detected by said second sensor, said card carrier controller so judges that the card has been taken in by a predetermined length by the main body.

when the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length at the time of discharging the card, said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in the direction in which the card is discharged.

13. A card processor comprising:

a card carrier passage in which a plurality of pairs of carrier rollers are arranged in a direction in which a card is carried being held thereby;
 card carriage controller for controlling the carriage of card on said card carrier passage by controlling the rotation of said carrier rollers; and
 card data reader for reading the card data recorded in the card that is carried along said card carrier passage; wherein
 when the card is being held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion portion at the time when the card is being discharged, said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction in which the card is discharged and stops repetitively, so that the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length.

14. A card processor according to claim 13, wherein said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction in which the card is discharged and in a direction in which the card is taken in by the main body, instead said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in a direction in which the card is discharged and stops.

15. A card processor according to claim 13, wherein when the card is discharged from the main body by a predetermined length at the time of discharging the card, said card carriage controller rotates the carrier rollers in the direction in which the card is discharged.

16. A card processor according to claim 14, wherein

FIG. 1

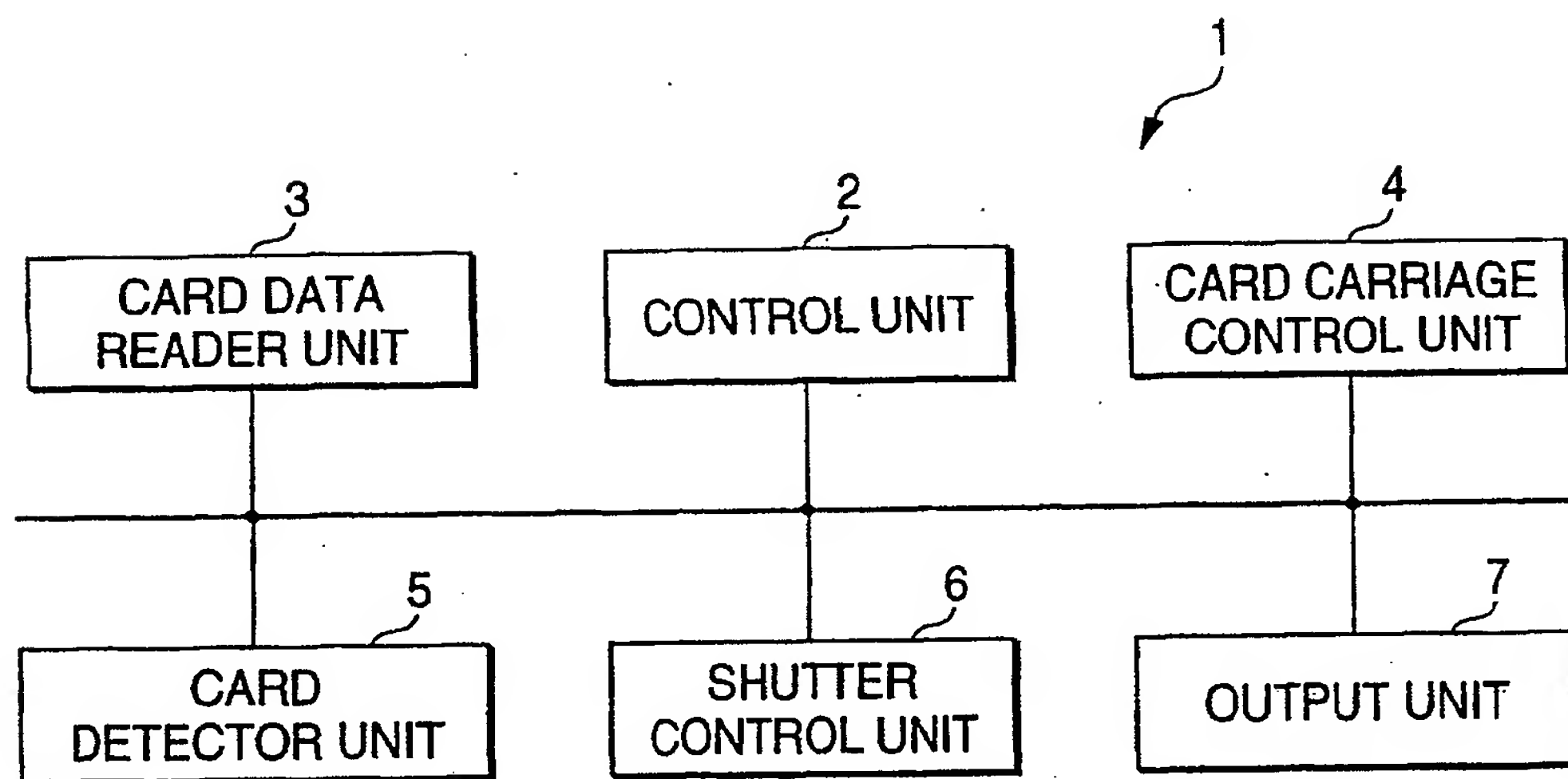


FIG. 2

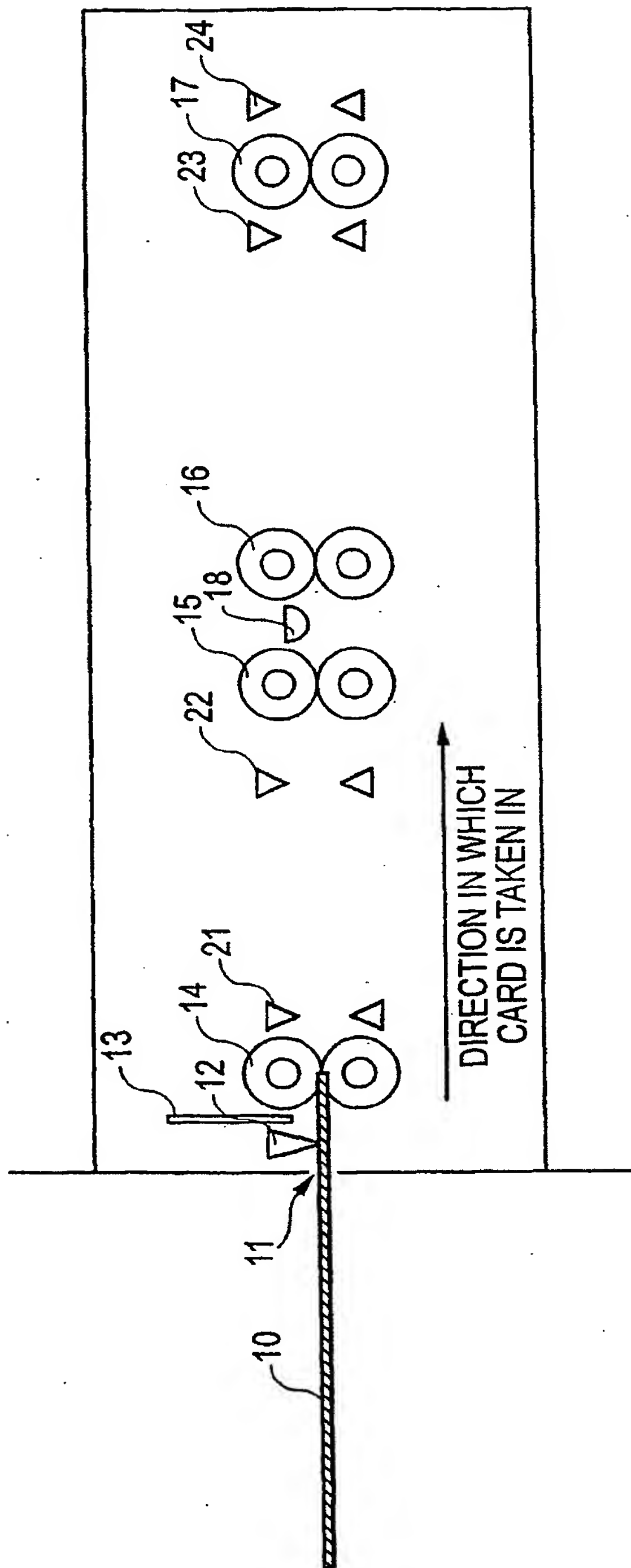


FIG. 3

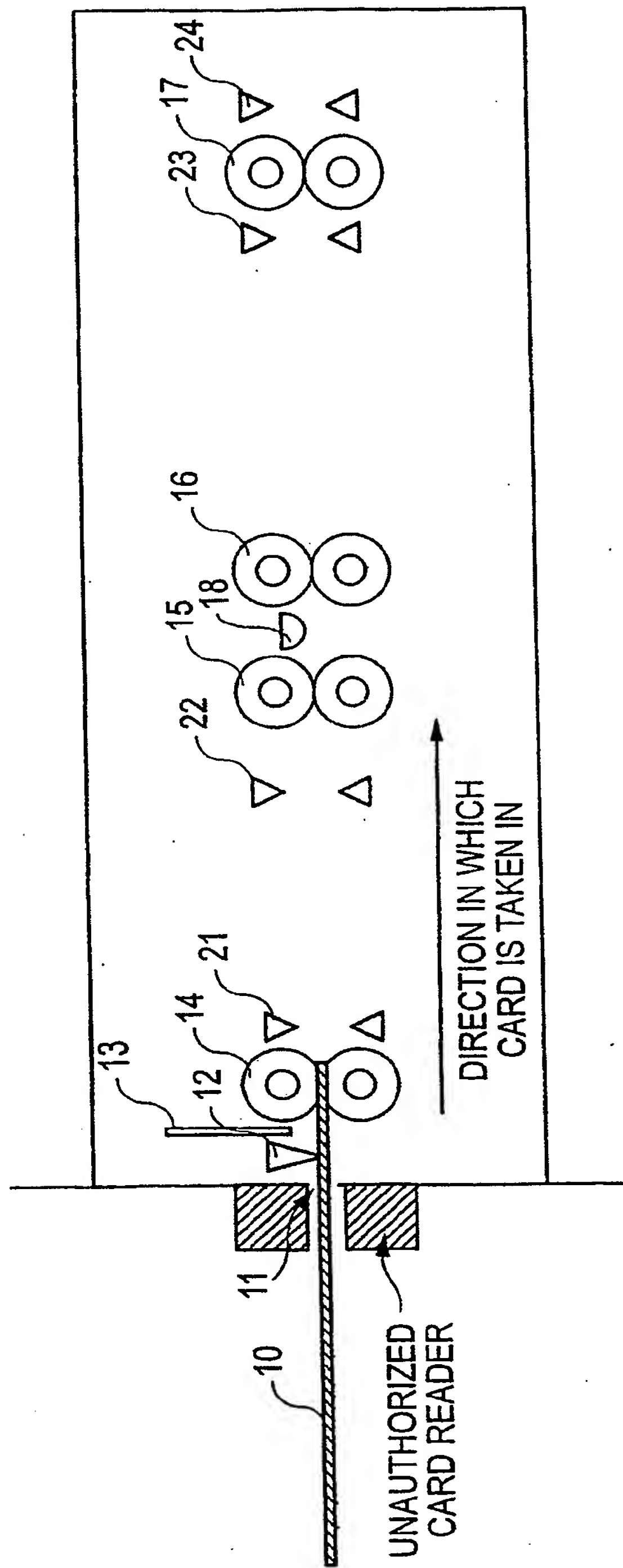


FIG. 4

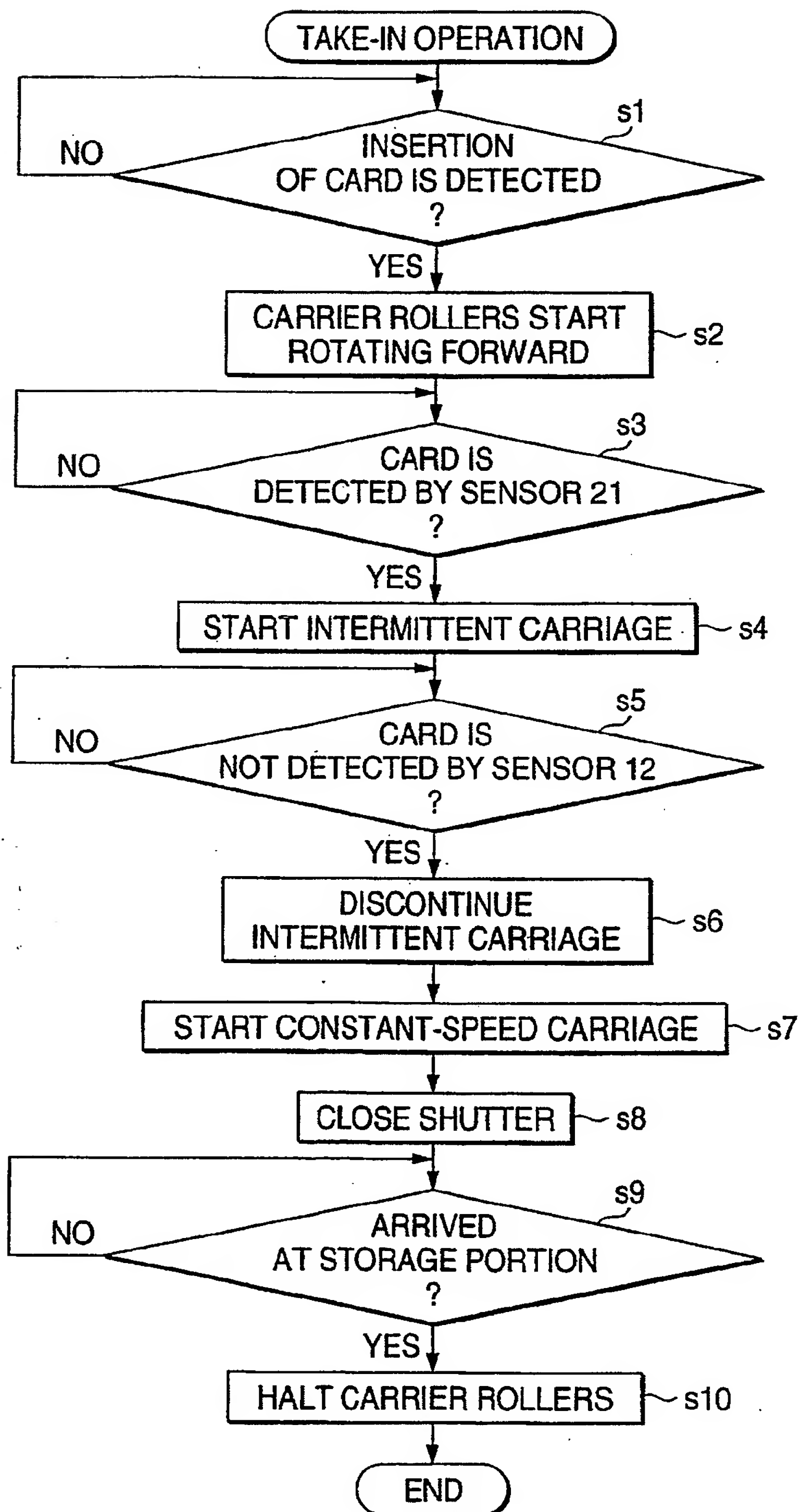


FIG. 5 (a)

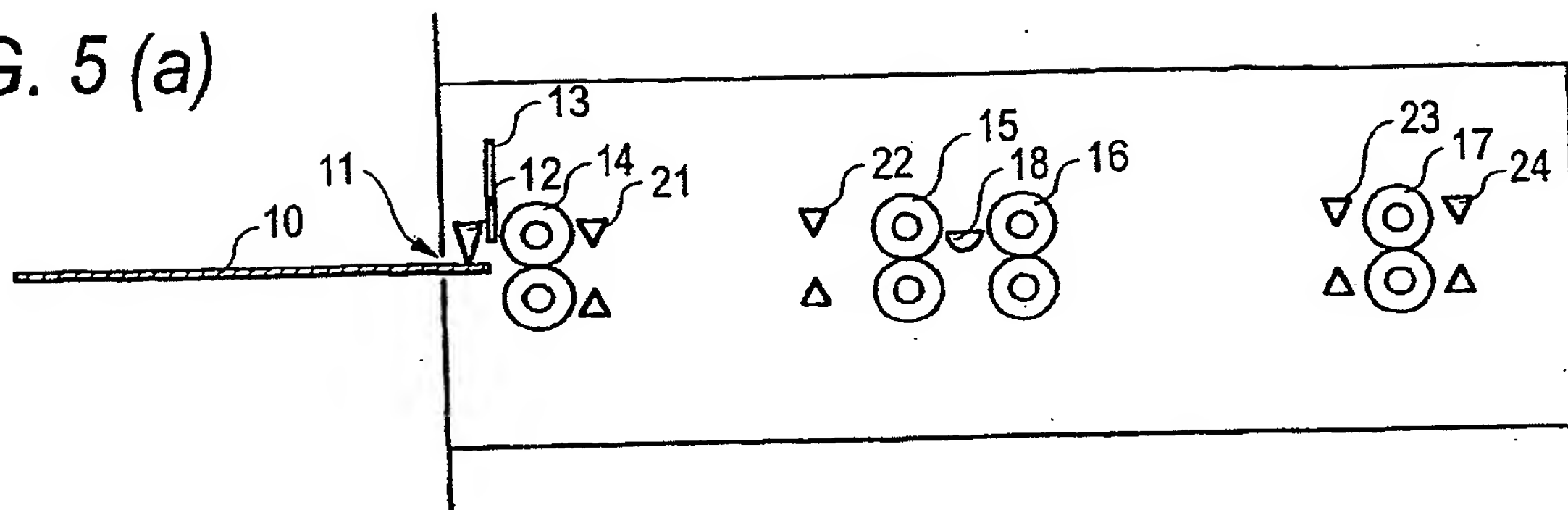


FIG. 5 (b)

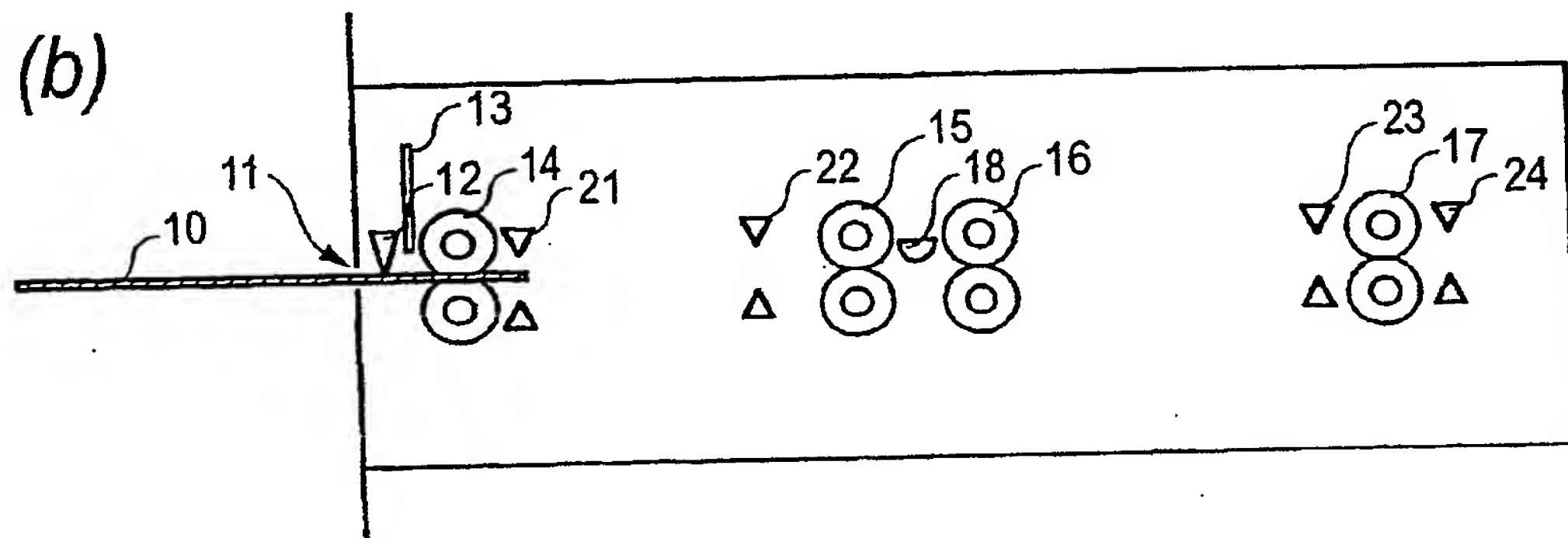


FIG. 5 (c)

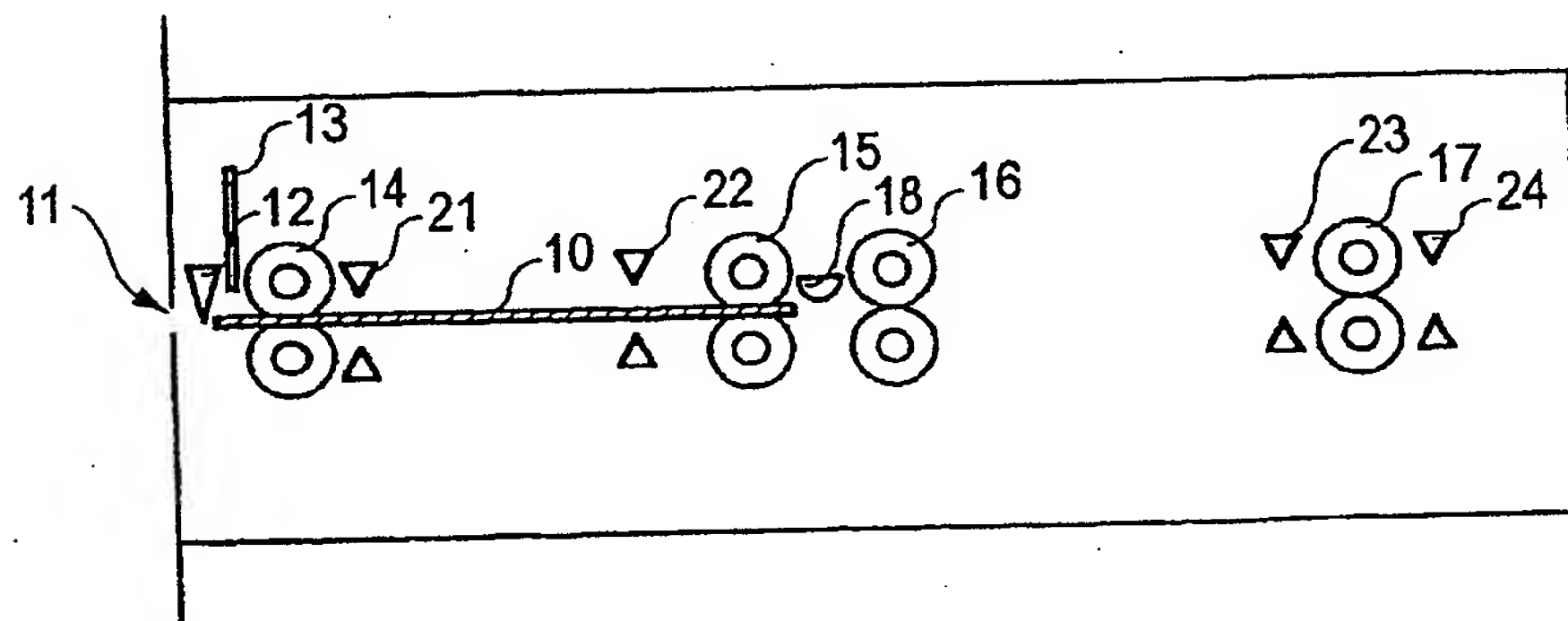


FIG. 5 (d)

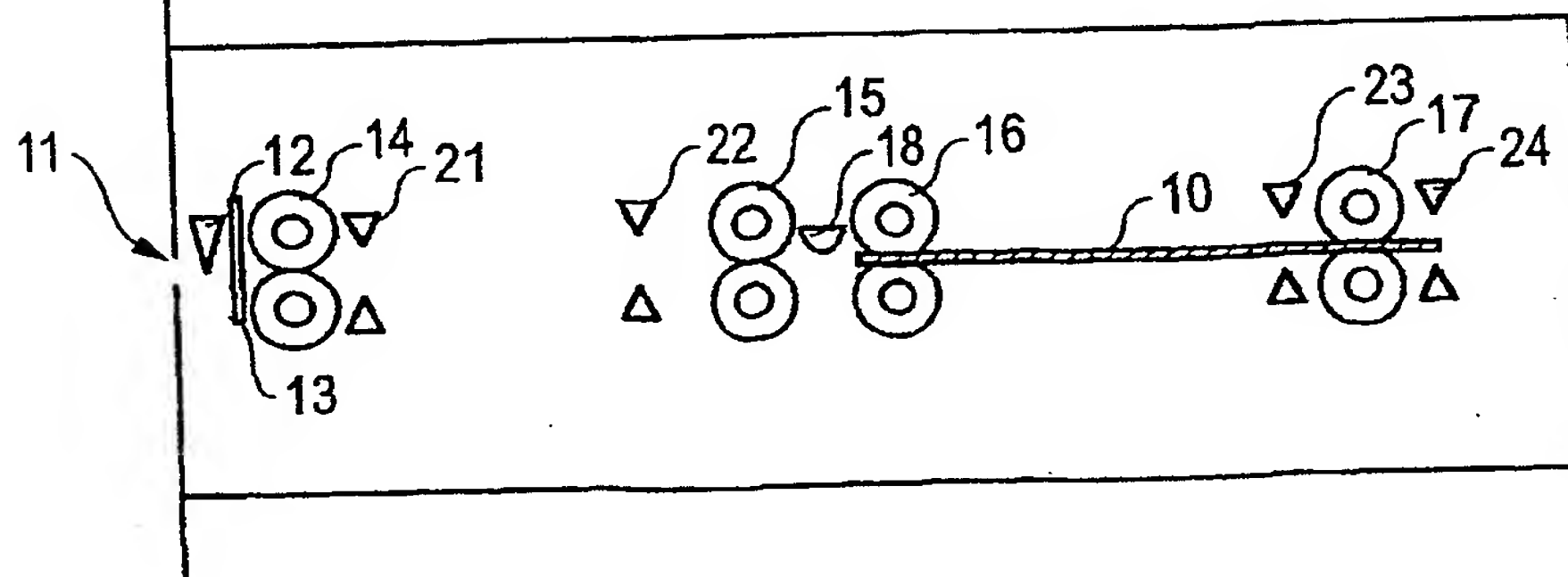


FIG. 6

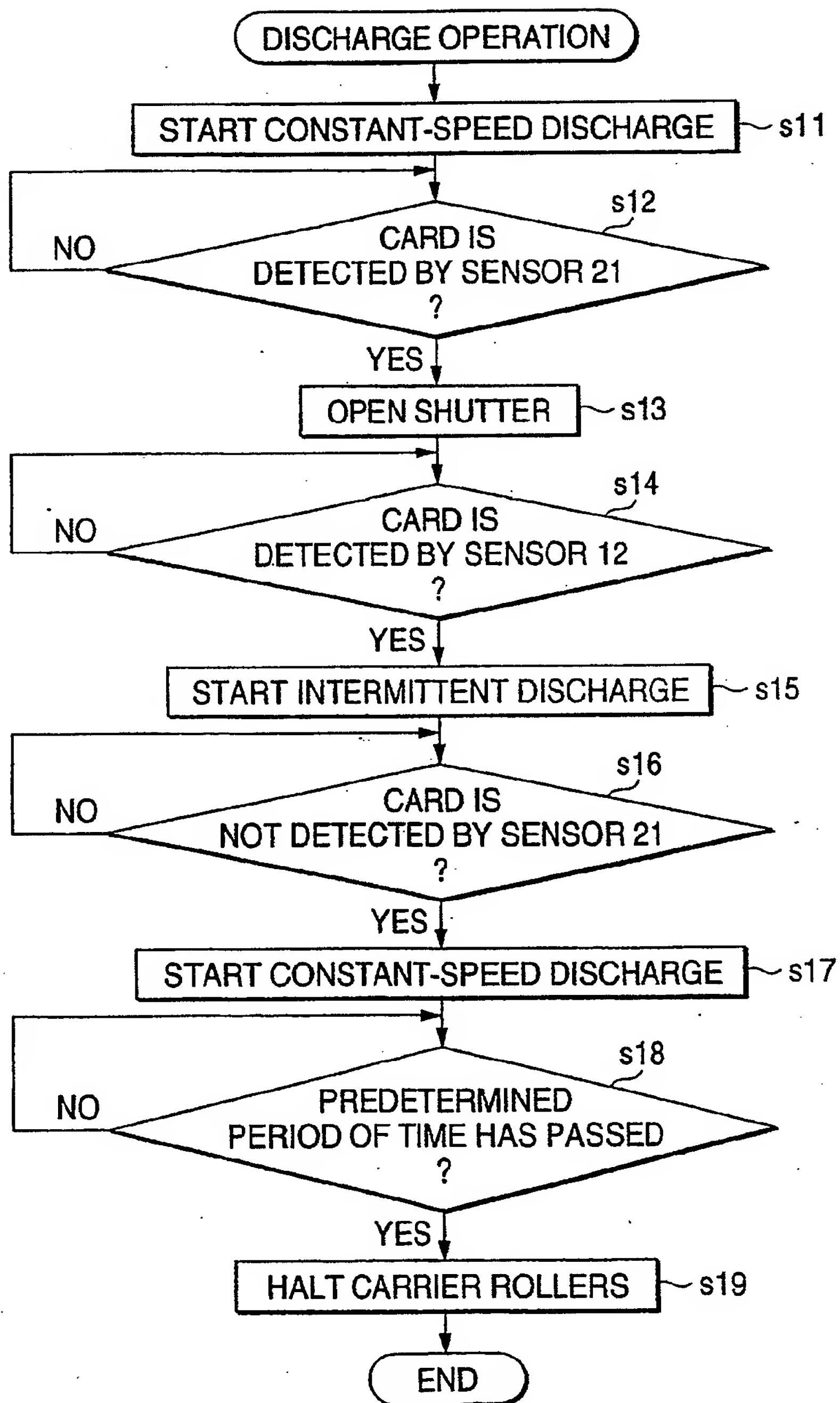


FIG. 7 (a)

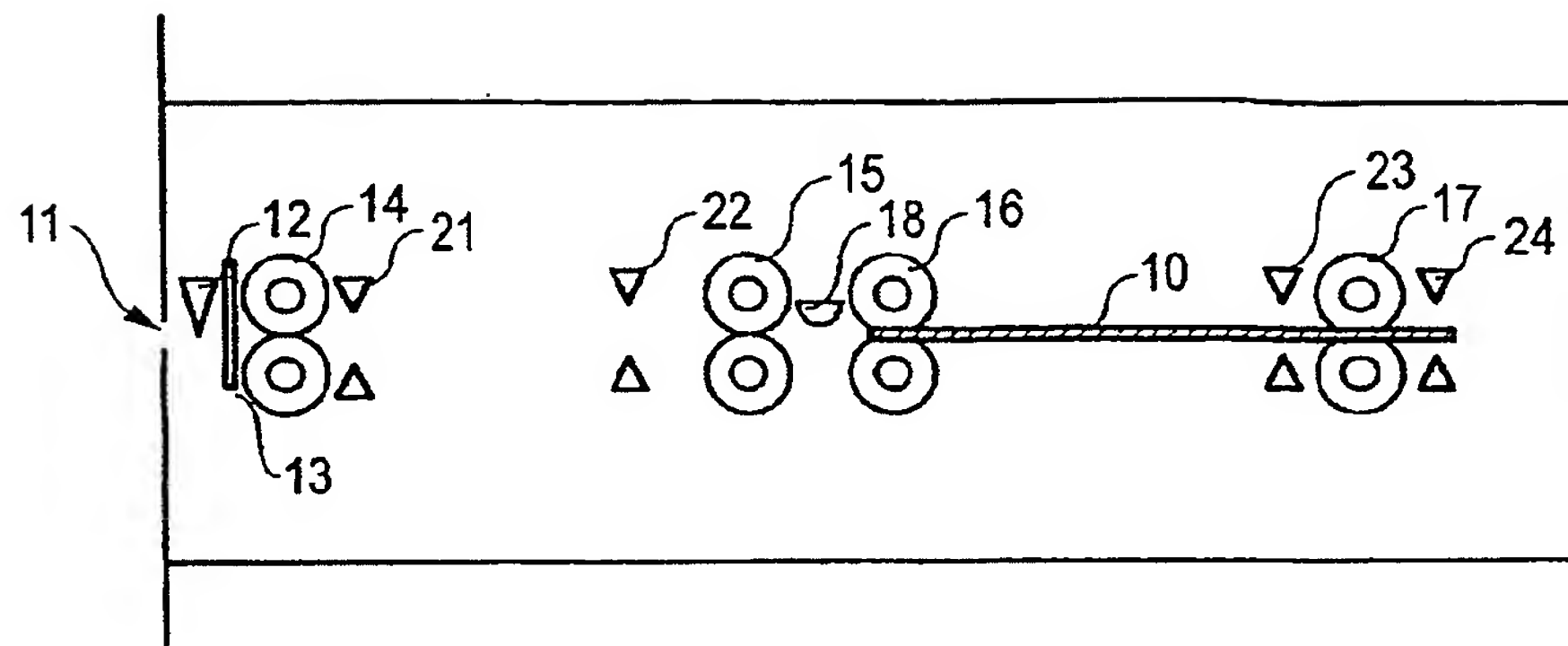


FIG. 7 (b)

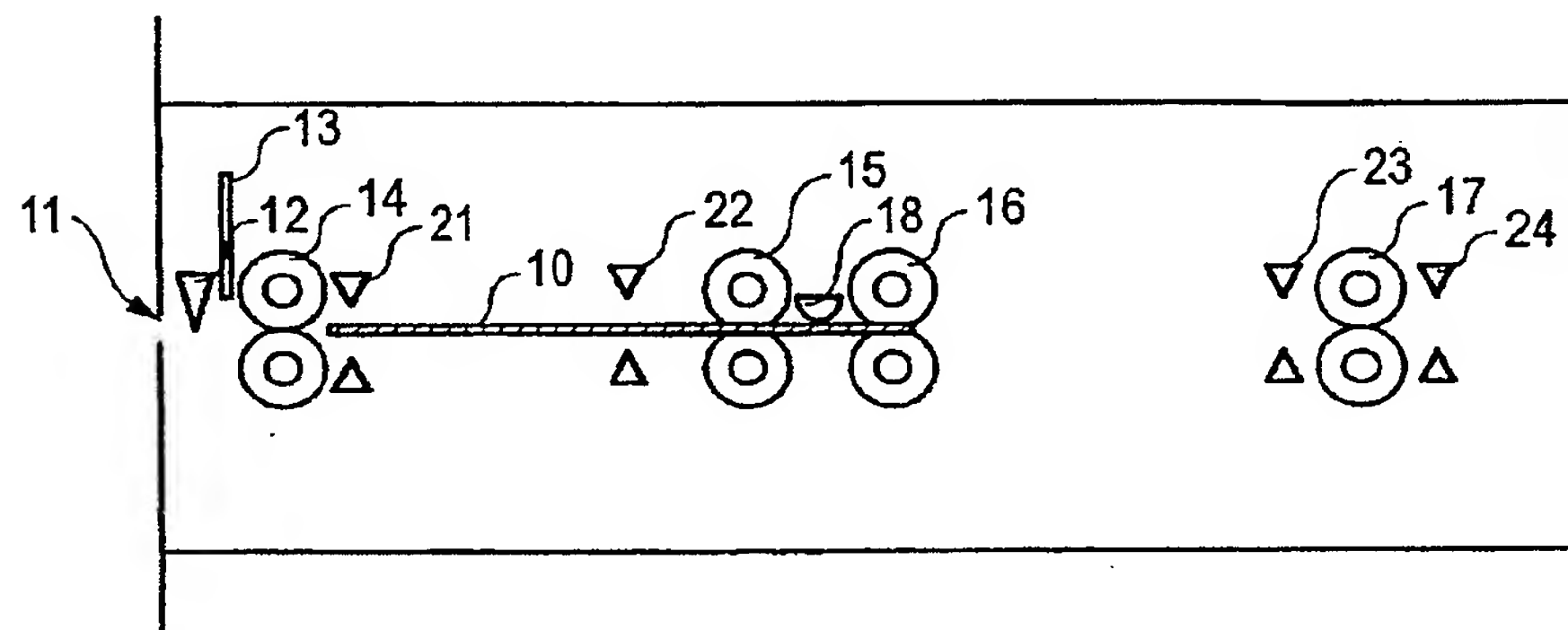


FIG. 7 (c)

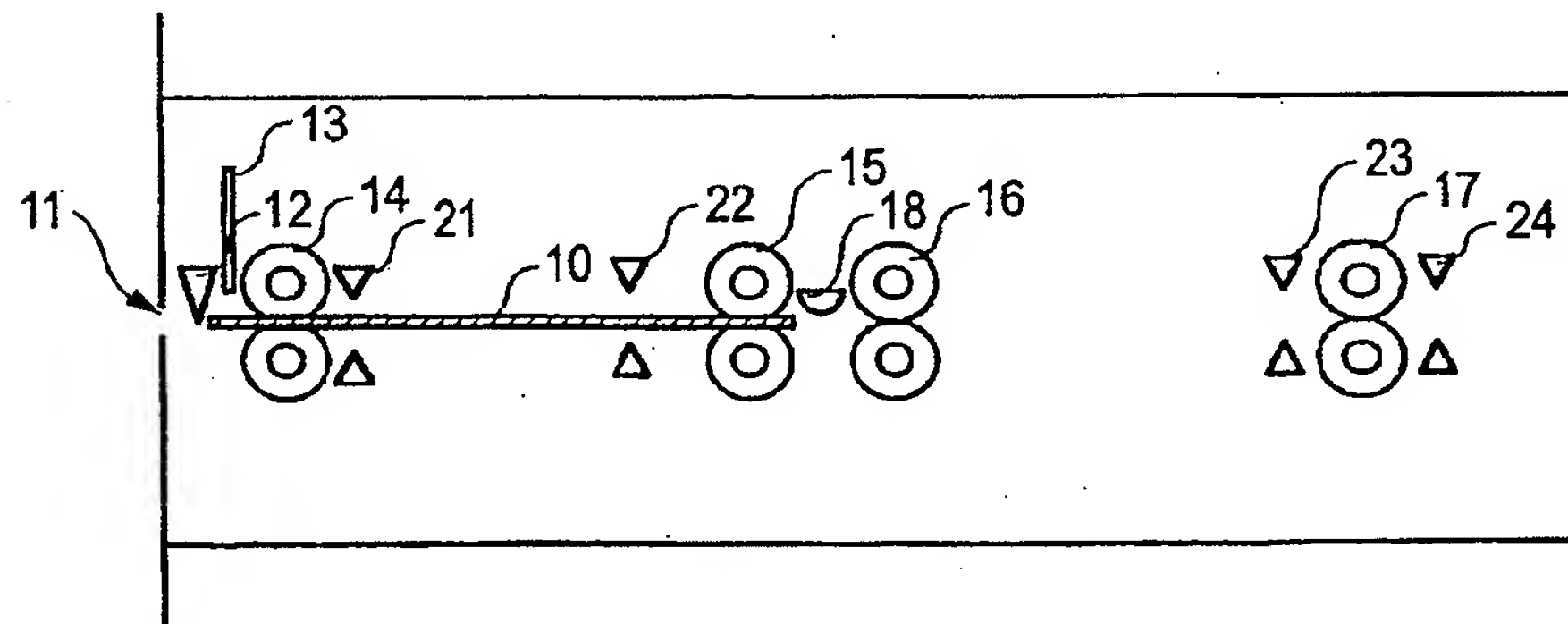
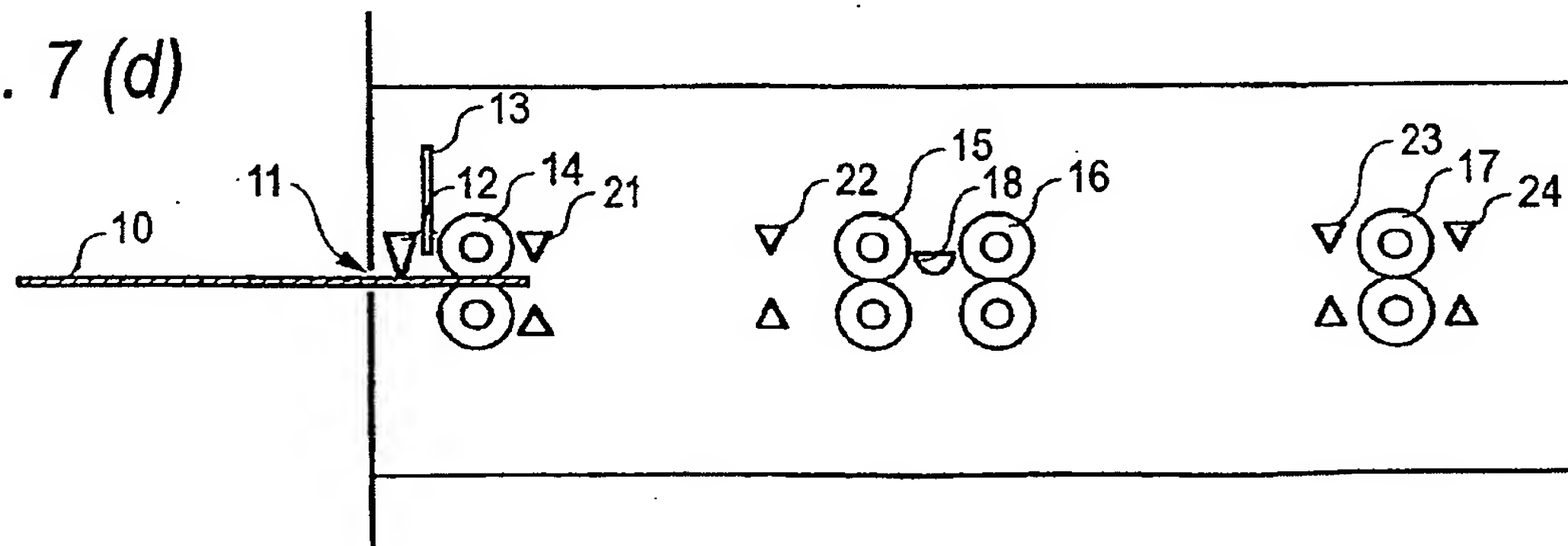
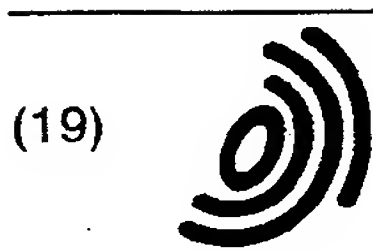


FIG. 7 (d)





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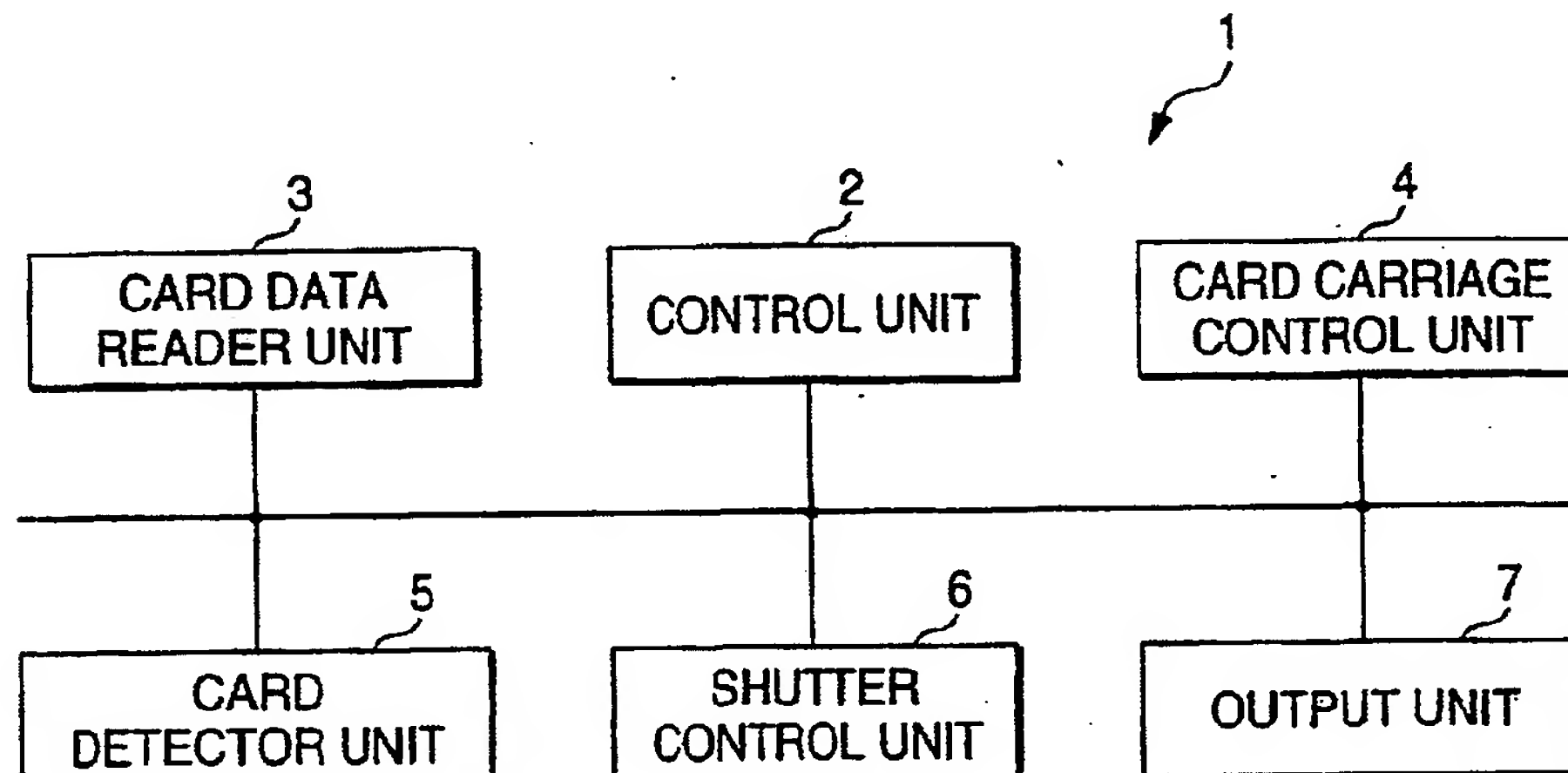
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(54) Card processor

(57) A card processor (1) is disclosed, which maintains security against unauthorized reading of the magnetic data recorded in the card and improves operability by suppressing offensive feeling to the customers. A card carriage control unit (4) rotates carrier rollers in a direction in which a card is taken in by the interior of the main body until the card is held by the pair of carrier rollers closest to the insertion port. Therefore, the customer who inserts the card does not receive offensive

feeling such as supporting something with the card that occurs when the leading end of the card comes in contact with the carrier rollers that are halting. As the card is held by the carrier rollers, further, the card carriage control unit (4) intermittently carries the card so as to be taken in by the main body. Even in case an unauthorized card reader is attached to the front surface of the insertion port, therefore, the card data are not read out without authorization.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		26 May 2004	Degraeve, A.
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